network), Fibre Optic and digital microwave.

— Extensive computerisation of Telecom. services.

— Use of improved computerised network management techniques.

— The 8th Plan proposals envisage:

(i) replacement of 14 lakh lines (inclusive of 3.48 lakh lines of manual exchanges) in the country including around 76,000 lines in Kerala (Kerala exchanges have been fully automatised by 31-3-90).

(ii) provision of 2000 Kms. of ducting for the country out of which 60 Kms. are proposed in Kerala.

(iii) around 94 per cent of the proposed addition of local switching equipment by digital electronic equipment, all over the country including Kerala.

(iv) 21750 Rkms of fibre optic systems out of which 1170 Rkms in Kerala.

(v) 3 SBT systems at Cochin, Trivandrum and Kozhikode to modernise telegraph services.

(b) No, Sir.

Declaration of Kashmir Valley as disturbed area

609. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have declared the entire Kashmir Valley as disturbed area;

(b) whether foreign journalists and tourists are being allowed to visit the Valley; if so, their number from March, 1991 till date;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no proper precaution was taken to protect the Israeli group of tourists from terrorists attack in Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) whether there was any bargain with the militants in the Valley in securing the release of Israeli tourists; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 1497 foreigners including 89 journalists visited Srinagar during the period from March to 18th July, 1991.

(c) Provision for security to tourists is part of the overall scheme to maintain law & order in Kashmir Valley. The Government has taken a number of stringent administrative measures to contain terrorism

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों का निजीकरण

610. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**
श्री राधा किशन मालवीय :

क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के निजीकरण के प्रश्न पर विचार करने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो क्या कुछ नए राजमार्ग निर्माण हेतु निजी संगठनों को आवंटित किये जाएंगे ?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) (श्री जगदीश टाइटलर) : (क) से (ग) जी, हां, ।

राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के विकास में निजी क्षेत्र को शामिल करने का प्रस्ताव है । तथापि, यह प्रस्ताव अभी जांच की प्रारम्भिक अवस्था में है । अभी से प्रस्ताव के ब्यौरे देना संभव नहीं है ।

Measures to eliminate delay in delivery of mail

611. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what measures are being taken to ensure elimination of inordinate delays in delivery of mail, telegrams, money orders, parcels etc; and

(b) what are the reasons for abnormal delays in delivery of the above mails leading to the setting up of private courier services?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Normally there is no inordinate delay in delivery of mail, telegrams, money orders, parcels, etc. but for a few stray cases, which, when reported are properly investigated.

(b) The development of courier services by private agencies and Speed-Post is not an alternative to the normal postal services but only a response to customers requirement for a highly personalised service in terms of speed and safety and plays a complementary role to the normal postal services.

Hindus migrated to India from Bangladesh and Pakistan

612. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hindus who have migrated to India from Bangladesh and Pakistan during each of the last three [illegible] the current year;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to stop such migration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) Bangladesh nationals, including Hindus, who have entered India after 25th March, 1971 without valid travel documents are treated as infiltrators. Since they enter surreptitiously and go underground, it is not possible to determine how many such persons have come to India. There are standing instructions to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to detect and deport infiltrators.

According to the reports received from the various State Governments and the concerned agencies, there is no significant migration of Hindus from Pakistan. Hindus, like other Pakistani nationals, visit India with valid travel documents. While some of them return to Pakistan, others apply for long term stay facilities in India. No separate statistics of Pakistani Hindus visiting India on vaild travel documents has been maintained.

Hindus in Kashmir

613. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be plaesed to state:

(a) the population of the Hindus in Kashmir Valley excluding Jammu and Ladakh, during the last three years, yearwise;

(b) the total population of the Hindus who have migrated from Kashmir Valley to other parts of the country; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to help the migrants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF